

I claim:

1. A method of offering a product for sale between a supplier and a buyer, the method comprising the step of maintaining the anonymity of the supplier.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing information about the product to the buyer.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of updating, editing or  
10 changing the product information.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the product information is linked to from a marketplace.

5. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of providing a search  
15 capability for the product to provide the product information to the buyer.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of providing a price watch  
feature.

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7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a bookmark.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of separating the payment from the buyer and the payment to the supplier.

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9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing payment pass-through from the buyer to the supplier.

10. A method of providing products to potential buyers, the method comprising the  
30 steps of:

providing a system that allows a desired product to be searched;

providing information about the desired product responsive to the search; and  
maintaining the anonymity of a supplier of the desired product.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

entering a product description and a first price into a database of the system;  
computing a second price from said first price if desired;  
providing product description and the second price to prospective buyers; entering  
shipping and tracking information into said database if a product is purchased, and  
submitting an invoice to a supplier of said product.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of submitting further comprises  
concealing the name of the supplier.

13. A method of providing product information comprising the steps of:

providing a database that is accessible to at least one user and to at least one supplier; and  
providing information responsive to the user, wherein supplier anonymity is maintained  
relative to the user.

14. A product information system comprising:

at least one maintenance apparatus that includes a database and an application, the  
database is accessible to at least two users, the database includes items of information  
with at least one item being associated to a one of the users, and the application withholds  
the association from another user.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the information is for at least one product.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein a user is a supplier.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the application is capable of providing  
information responsive to at least one of the users.

18. A system for offering a product for sale comprising:  
a database containing price information for a product from each of a plurality of  
suppliers;  
an Internet connection to said database;  
5 a software program to calculate a second price from said price information for each of  
said plurality of suppliers; and  
a web page operable to display said second price for each of said plurality of suppliers.

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